

## Minutes of the Raritan Historic & Cultural Committee February 19, 2025

- Committee called to order at 6:30PM
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Members in attendance: Ed Ruzbarsky, Gail Ostapczuk, James Fidacaro, Jane Fidacaro, Tim Rack, Karen Eastlund, Dave Fritzingler, Debbie Thomas, Joyce Tronolone
- Excused Members: Dawn Wilde
- Unexcused Members: Mark Esposito
- Visitors: None
- Membership: Opening for 2 alternate positions
- Secretary's Minutes from 01/2025
  - No Changes
  - Motion to accept. Seconded. All approve.
- Treasurer's Report
  - Balance in treasury month \$651.04
  - Trust Fund \$1199.15
  - Motion to accept. Seconded. All approve.
- **Old Business**
  - Artist Jen Guarino
    - New image for mural on the side wall of Mangia Buono
    - Owner of Mangia Buono has given the green light for project to begin once weather conditions improve for painting
  - Library Program
    - Patricia Wells – performer for a program at the library “History is Speaking”
    - Inviting Mathew Dodd back for another program at the library
    - Paul Soltis – would give a program on our behest “George Washington at Middlebrook” in April/May
    - George Washington impersonator for 2026. Possible partnering with the Wallace House
  - Basilone Speaker – Dawn will discuss with Kim
- **New Business**
  - Election of Officers
    - Treasurer and Vice President: Ed Ruzbarsky
    - Secretary: Gail Ostapczuk
    - President: Karen Eastlund
    - All in favor. Passed
  - Thank You Card from Tropiano's
  - Deb and Rosemary have been organizing storage facility
  - Paul Soltis is offering to partner in pursuing grants with the library. Jane will discuss with Library committee if they would like to pursue this
  - Cornell House – now divided up into apartments, the sign is gone. Possibility of replacing the sign
  - Display case in library is behind a shelf now
  - Letter from Douglas DeStefano – mentioned the grants that are available for statue work. Committee decided this should be considered by Basilone Memorial Foundation
  - Project Ideas for 2025 and 2026 (250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of USA)
    - Time Capsule for 2026
      - 25 or 50 years
      - Where to put it
    - Continue to think about booking events/people for 2026
    - Hometown Heros 2026 – military hero/community hero
      - Suggested donation
      - Identifying places where we could place this
- **Meeting Adjourned 7:40 PM**